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fellow-servant exemption, adapting themselves to new and rapidly altering social and industrial conditions, this modern and complete essay must prove particularly valuable to those who are studying and practicing in the states selected, and generally commend itself to all students and practitioners who are interested widely in master and servant questions.

E. H. B.

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THE ESSENTIALS OF BUSINESS LAW. By FRANCIS M. BURDICK, Dwight Professor of Law in Columbia University Law School. Pp. ii+285. One of the "Twentieth Century Text-Books." New York: D. Appleton & Company. 1902.

A book not written for lawyers, nor for professional students of the law, but for boys and girls in our secondary schools; not a treatise on rules of law in general, but to show how the rules of law, governing our ordinary business transactions, have been developed, and to tell what they are. We repeat from the preface that "these are set forth in clear, lucid, popular language"; or rather, so it has been endeavored to present them. Some of the objects aimed at are: To inform the high-school student sufficiently that he may later know when he ought to consult a lawyer in order to avoid business pitfalls; to teach him how to make, indorse and use checks and other forms of negotiable paper; to teach him his rights against hotel-keepers, common carriers and many others; to give him useful information about the purchase and sale, the transfer and conveyance, of land and of personal property. A worthy object, forsooth, but one which would amount to placing a feathery chip on his shoulder. And what's more, no high-school student would concentrate his mind on what the "social compact" meant, or what the nature of "preponderous courts" was, sufficiently long to let in one gleam of enlightenment from these pages. I have yet to find the high-school teacher who would hand this book to a pupil of his, really believing that the pupil's time could be well spent in reading or even studying it.

The book has decided value, but not for the purposes its author intended. I am acquainted with a book of similar kind and composition, which was handed to a business man of more than ordinary intelligence before it was sent to press. When the business man marked the passages needful of more explanation, it was returned to the author, who, indeed, had written it feeling that the ordinary layman could not fail to understand. It was necessary to rewrite it; and now it is used with profit in the commercial courses, not of high schools or secondary schools, but of business colleges and universities.

The next edition of Prof. Burdick's book could profitably undergo the same treatment. He who writes excellently efficient works on "Partnership" and "Sales," and intended primarily for students of the law, is not in a position to write for the high-school student or business man, without the high-school teacher's or business man's help. What he has given us in this short book on business law is essentially good, but misdirected. The chapters on "The Nature and Origin of Municipal Law" and "The Law Merchant and the Common Law" could be read with profit by any first-year student of the law or any thoughtfully intelligent business man. The chapters on Contracts (some 64 pp. long and divided into seven well-digested and well-written sections)—Agency, Bailments, Bankruptcy and insolvency, Insurance, Negotiable Paper, Partnerships, and Real and Personal Property—are divided quite efficiently into helpful sections, and each section into numerous headings, under each of which is an appropriate and concise explanation. All this, of course, will be helpful to some one, and we judge that that some one must be the student in a business college, under the direction of a teacher well trained in the law, or the business man who is willing to spend a deal of his spare time conscientiously studying these chapters. And an overwhelming majority of this latter class would prefer to pay an attorney for advice to consuming evening hours with a study of the law.

Then the value of the book is confined to students of a commercial college course. Properly, then, it is a text-book, and it lacks a most important element, viz., references. The very brevity of the work demands this, when we consider that the commercial student will always desire a more extensive knowledge of some topic in the book, and is entitled to immediate references. It would be little trouble to make such addition; it could do no harm, and could not fail to do some good. We suggest that they take the form of foot-notes; and when a great judge is quoted, why not give the source of the quotation? Not every reader will have access to a law library, not every reader will care to refer to the opinions cited, but there is no reason why the few who may have such access or such desire should not be satisfied.

The index and the form of the book are wholly satisfactory.  
E. H. B.

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#### NOTES ON RECENT LEADING ARTICLES IN LEGAL PERIODICALS.

ALBANY LAW JOURNAL.—October.

*The Exigencies of Eminent Domain*, No. 2. Theodore F. C. Demorest. "The object of this article is to trace the history of the law, in New York, relative to the right of an upper-story railroad corporation to erect and maintain a station over a public street, in front of an abut-